

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom, and that these are our heritage as Americans.

Bless the Members of the people's House with the understanding that it is their work to develop the strategies and the plans for achieving those goals, and the trust to know that Your spirit is with them in their work.

Grace this assembly with the resolve to be faithful in its tasks, responsible in its actions, and fervent in its desire to serve a nation which, so many hope, will live beyond any current difficulties into an ever greater realization of both justice and freedom.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, took the lives of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty;

Whereas the events leading up to and in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi were rightfully and thor-

oughly examined to honor the memory of the victims and to improve the safety of the men and women serving our country overseas;

Whereas the independent Accountability Review Board convened by the U.S. State Department investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas five committees in the U.S. House of Representatives investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas four committees in the U.S. Senate investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas in each fiscal year, more than \$4 billion is appropriated to run the Congress, with untold amounts of this taxpayer money expended by nine Congressional committees to investigate the events in Benghazi, none of which produced any evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas after the exhaustive, thorough, and costly investigations by nine Congressional committees and the independent Accountability Review Board found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing, Republican leaders in the House insisted on using taxpayer dollars to fund a new, duplicative "Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," (hereafter the Select Committee) to re-examine the matter;

Whereas this taxpayer-funded committee was given broad powers to pursue its investigations, including an unlimited, taxpayer-funded budget and granting the Chairman the legal authority to subpoena documents and compel testimony without any debate or a vote;

Whereas the ongoing Republican-led investigation into the events in Benghazi is now one of the longest running and least productive investigations in Congressional history;

Whereas a widely-quoted statement made on September 29th, 2015 by Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY, the Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, has called into question the integrity of the proceedings of the Select Committee and the House of Representatives as a whole;

Whereas this statement by Representative MCCARTHY demonstrates that the Select Committee established by Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was created to influence public opinion of a presidential candidate;

Whereas the Select Committee has been in existence for 17 months but has held only three hearings;

Whereas the Select Committee abandoned its plans to obtain public testimony from Defense Department and Intelligence Community leaders;

Whereas the Select Committee excluded Democratic Members from interviews of witnesses who provided exculpatory information related to its investigation;

Whereas information obtained by the Select Committee has been selectively

and inaccurately leaked to influence the electoral standing of a candidate for public office;

Whereas such actions represent an abuse of power that demonstrates the partisan nature of the Select Committee;

Whereas the Select Committee has spent more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds to date to advance its partisan efforts;

Whereas this amount does not include the costs of the independent Accountability Review Board; the hearings and reports by nine Congressional committees; the time, money, and resources consumed by Federal agencies to comply with Select Committee requests; or the opportunity cost of not spending this money elsewhere, such as improving security for our diplomatic officers abroad;

Whereas it is an outrage that more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds have been used by Republicans in the House of Representatives, not to run the government, but to interfere inappropriately with an election for president of the United States;

Whereas the use of taxpayer dollars by the House of Representatives for campaign purposes is a violation of the Rules of the House and Federal law;

Resolved, That: (1) this misuse of the official resources of the House of Representatives for political purposes undermines the integrity of the proceedings of the House and brings discredit to the House; (2) the integrity of the proceedings of the House can be fully restored only by the dissolution of the Select Committee; and (3) the Select Committee shall be dismantled and is hereby directed to make public within thirty days transcripts of all unclassified interviews and depositions it has conducted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from New York will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California's water-year starts each year on October 1. The 2016 California water-year started last Thursday, and we come into that year with the six main reservoirs of the Central Valley Project at only 24 percent of their total capacity, or a combined 200,000 acre-feet below where they started the water-year in 2015, just 1 year ago.

That represents enough water supply, 200,000 acre-feet, to supply the city of Sacramento for 2 years. Half of the reservoirs don't even have 20 percent of their capacity. The San Luis Reservoir has less than 10 percent of its Federal water capacity.

El Nino, though welcomed if it happens, will not stop the drought in California because the State has not invested nearly enough in additional water storage for our State and its people. Congress and the California State government need to act now to open new water resources so we don't fallow more farms and thirst more cities, or we will risk doing irreparable harm to California's \$1 trillion economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take action now.

COUNTING THE COST OF GUNS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when the American Public Health Association totaled the cost of gun violence in the United States for 1 year, it amounted to \$174 billion, about \$363 for every American. And if you consider just the loss of life, more Americans have been killed by guns since 1968 than have died in all the wars this country has ever fought.

Now, once more, in the wake of another mass shooting, too many leaders have responded with indifference. Just move on. But when 32 Americans are killed with a gun every single day, we cannot afford to stand still. We cannot just move on.

So far in this Congress, the House has held not one single hearing on gun violence, not one chance to evaluate ways to curb this epidemic of gun violence. Mr. Speaker, we cannot go on like this. Not one more American should die because Congress has failed to act.

HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on October 3, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau implemented a new rule to streamline disclosure requirements during the home buying process.

Helping consumers better understand their mortgage terms is a worthy goal. No one is arguing that. However, this rule makes considerable changes to the forms used by consumers when applying for a loan, and anyone with sense can see that will lead to unforeseen

issues. That means American home buyers will have less flexibility to buy and close on a home on their terms in the coming months.

Fortunately, this week the House will consider the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which creates a temporary safe harbor from enforcement of this new rule as long as a good faith effort was made to comply. The legislation will give the CFPB the necessary time to address implementation hurdles with stakeholders. It is the right move for America's housing recovery.

TREAT ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, every day more than 60 Americans die due to an overdose of prescription drugs. The death rate from heroin overdose, an epidemic fueled by addiction to opioid painkillers, quadrupled from 2002 to 2013.

A person suffering from opioid addiction needs access to medication therapy. In many cases, treatment limited to rapid detoxification and abstinence can lead to an overdose during the first month of treatment.

Effective medications to treat opioid addiction exist, but Federal regulations restrict the number of patients a physician can treat. This is a dangerous limitation, considering that 877,000 physicians can prescribe opioids, but only 29,000 can prescribe treatments for opioid addiction.

Tomorrow, the Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on the TREAT Act, legislation I introduced to increase the number of patients to whom a physician can prescribe treatments for opioid addiction. It would also expand the authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

I thank the committee for considering my bill and will work across the aisle to bring it to the floor.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to weigh in with the Department of Health and Human Services to address this problem as well.

PATTI FLOOD—ANGELS IN ADOPTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patti Flood, a Centre County resident who is being recognized tonight as an Angel in Adoption. Angels in Adoption is a program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and honors those who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of families.

Patti is the executive director of Family Intervention Crisis Services, which helps children in Centre County,

Pennsylvania, and the surrounding area connect with foster homes and adoption, along with reuniting their biological parents whenever possible.

Mr. Speaker, Patti Flood has impacted the lives of countless children. Through her work, she has pushed for the development of new programs in Centre County dedicated to helping children find permanent homes as quickly as possible. In addition to her professional role, Patti serves as a trainer for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program, passing on the knowledge gained over her nearly 30-year career.

Helping children in need of adoption is a service which demonstrates real selflessness and a strong dedication to community. I thank Patti Flood for her service to our area's children.

□ 1215

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE IS IN CHAOS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives, the people's House, is in chaos. Last week, just hours before a government shutdown, we only managed to pass a 6-week CR to keep the government open. I voted for this bill because I refuse to shut down government and to do it over partisan politics because our Nation deserves better.

It is time for the GOP dysfunction to end. If we work together, Mr. Speaker, today with bipartisan support, we could reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, restore voting rights lost in the wake of the Shelby v. Holder decision, and fund the highway trust fund in a sustained way.

But none of this seems to be happening because of Republican chaos and the inability to govern effectively. Republicans in Congress need to join Democrats and just get back to the issues that hardworking American families care about: jobs, voting rights, and the economy.

WE SHOULD PASS THE EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the Constitution. I rise today to stand for the Fourth Amendment and the right against unreasonable searches and seizures without probable cause.

The Email Privacy Act, the House's most cosponsored bill to not have a vote, this week got its 300th cosponsor. My friend from New York, LEE ZELDIN, became the latest Member of Congress to join this bipartisan legislation.

With a majority of Republicans and a majority of Democrats now supporting this bill, this is a bill whose time has